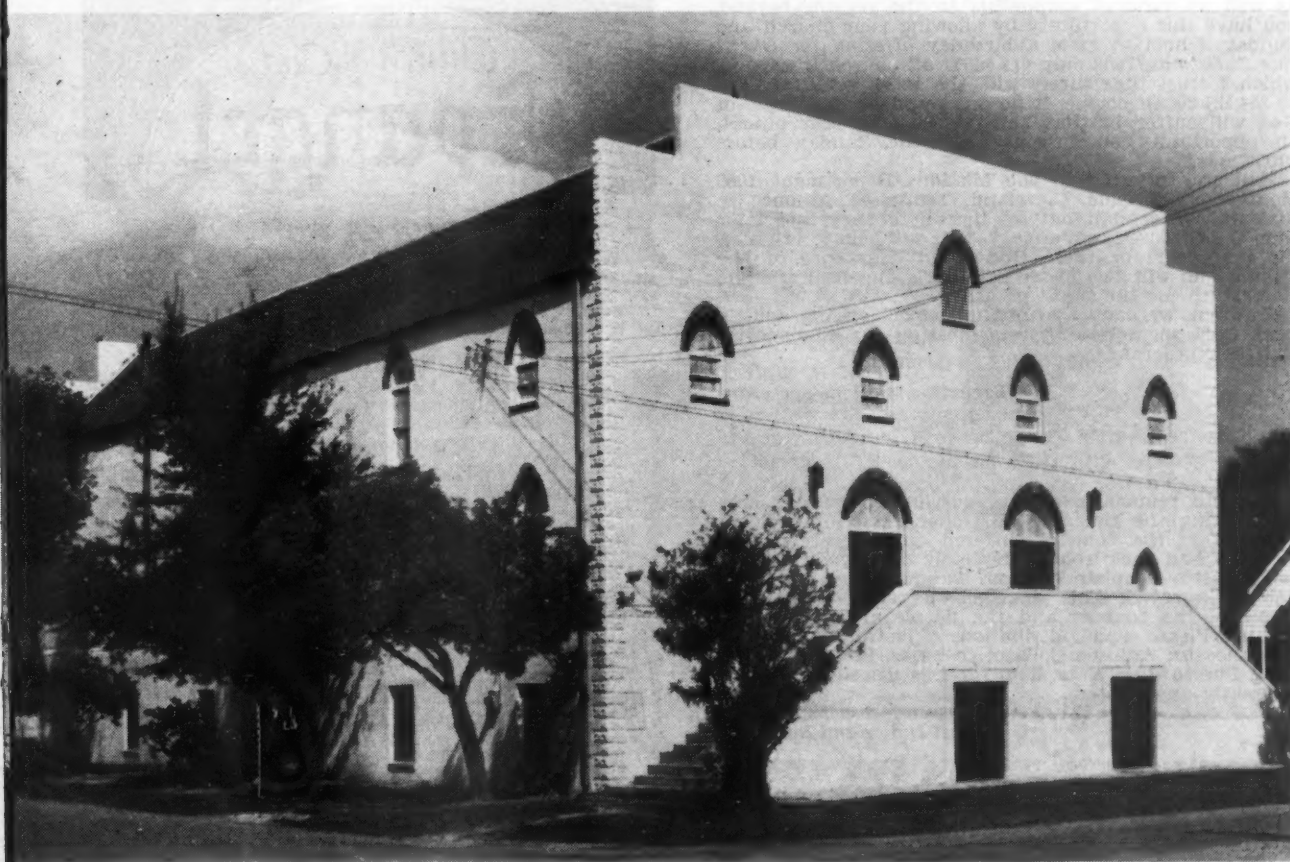


Church of God

December 3, 1956

Evangel



Colored Assembly Auditorium
Jacksonville, Florida

*A Special Issue Dedicated
to the*

COLORED WORK

of the Church of God





BIRTHDAY OFFERING FOR CHRIST THIS CHRISTMAS

Dear Church and Pastor:

If you wish to thrill the missionaries with a *Christmas gift*, and support the "*Literature for the Lost*" program as well as *national evangelists* in the regions beyond, you have this opportunity by allowing your church and Sunday School to raise a *birthday offering for Christ this Christmas*. It is only \$19.56. If all churches respond, which I trust they surely will, the total would amount to \$54,181.20. Of course, if no one responds, the cause of God will suffer in that amount. So give your church an opportunity on December 23, the Sunday before Christmas.

Mail this offering to the Missions Department 1080 Montgomery Avenue, Cleveland, Tennessee, at once so that we can send it out by airmail to them not later than the first week of January. This will help to brighten the new year for these God-called emissaries of the Church and will also foster national evangelism and the "*Literature for the Lost*" program.

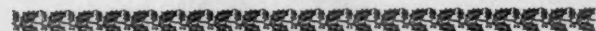
Brethren, we cannot afford to neglect adding a little extra Christmas cheer by remembering our missionaries and their program.

—Paul H. Walker,
Executive Missions Secretary



You will remember that a hurricane struck Puerto Rico during the time of the General Assembly. Some churches in the country suffered quite severely. Two churches had their roofs completely destroyed, another was almost a complete loss, and one parsonage was completely destroyed. This damage was among the poor people of the country and the people are in need of clothing. Please send contributions of clothing and other assistance to: Antonio Collazo, Overseer, Box 8212, San-turce, Puerto Rico. Your help for this disaster area will be greatly appreciated.

—A. W. Brummett, Superintendent
West Indies and Bermuda



A kind word is never lost. It keeps going on and on, from one person to another, until at last it comes back to you again.—Anonymous.

There should always be much more on the inside than on the outside of everything. Some men are all front, like houses having entrances of a palace but the contents of a hut.

There is only one thing for us to do, and that is to do our level best right where we are, every day of our lives; to use our best judgments, and then to trust the rest to that Power which holds the focus of the universe in His hands and which doeth all things well.—O. S. Marden.

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Official organ of the Church of God

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DECLARATION OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE

1. In the verbal inspiration of the Bible. 2. In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 3. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary. That Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead; that He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor. 4. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins. 5. That justification, regeneration, and the new birth are wrought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. 6. In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ, through the Word, and by the Holy Ghost. 7. Holiness to be God's standard of living for His people. 8. In the baptism of the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart. 9. In speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. 10. In water baptism by immersion, and all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. 11. Divine healing is provided for all in the atonement. 12. In the Lord's Supper and washing of the saints' feet. 13. In the premillennial second coming of Jesus. First, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air. Second, to reign on the earth a thousand years. 14. In the bodily resurrection; eternal life for the righteous and eternal punishment for the wicked.

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The Church of God "Colored Work" Marches On

By W. L. Ford

Overseer of Colored Work

THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH OF GOD COLORED WORK

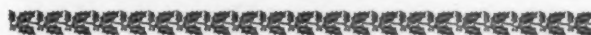
In 1910, in the State of Florida, a few colored people began to accept the teaching and government of the Church of God. Brother Edmond S. Barr and his wife, natives of Bahama Islands, were among the number. History shows that the first Colored Church of God set in order was at Miami, Florida, and the next was at Jacksonville, Florida; thus, there were "just two churches." In 1915, the Reverend Edmond S. Barr was appointed overseer of the colored work in the State of Florida. He was the first colored ordained bishop, and he served as overseer for two years. Brother Sam C. Perry was then appointed overseer over the white and colored work.

By 1922, the colored work had made some progress in Florida and had gone out into a few other states, so it was deemed best to appoint a man over the entire colored work. Brother Thomas J. Richardson was the first man to fill this position. Brother Richardson went out in the disruption that followed the Assembly that same year. Then Brother David LaFleur, of West Palm Beach, Florida, was appointed over the colored work. He was very energetic. He went to work with a great zeal. In 1925, he called a General (Colored) Assembly and appointed overseers of the states where the colored work was.

The Third Annual Assembly was held at Sanford, Florida, April 4-10, 1927. Six states were represented. The general overseer of the colored work is appointed by the Overseer Appointing Board at the General International Assembly of the Churches of God. The overseer of the colored work becomes the state overseer of the State of Florida. In the year 1928, Brother J. H. Curry was appointed overseer of the colored work. Under his supervision, the work made wonderful progress. The orphanage home was built, as well as the spacious auditorium. Brother Curry served the church as overseer for about eleven years.

In the year 1939, Brother N. S. Marcelle succeeded Brother Curry as overseer. He, too, was a very zealous and energetic leader in his pursuit for the church. His wife was a very faithful servant with him on the field, as long as her health would allow her. The church made speedy progress under his administration. Brother Marcelle served as overseer of the colored work for about seven years.

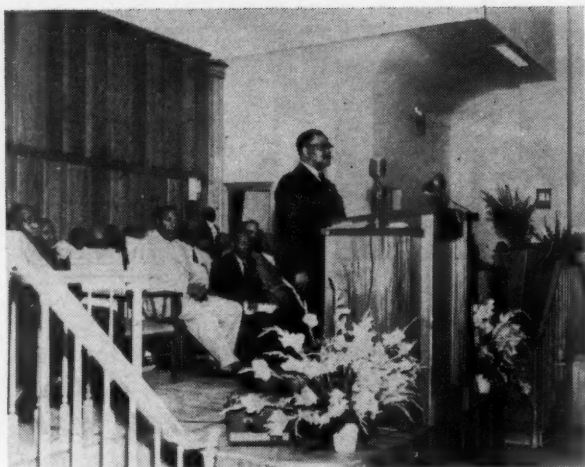
In 1946, another change in overseers was made. Your present overseer, Brother W. L. Ford, was appointed overseer of the colored work. In 1949 he was succeeded by Brother George A. Wallace, who served the people to the best of his ability. Under his leadership the Church of God Auditorium, which began under the leadership of Brother W. L. Ford, was completed. In 1954 he was succeeded by Brother W. L. Ford, your present overseer. The cooperation and fellowship with our ministers and members on the field as workers together for the Lord has been very pleasant.



FRONT COVER

The front cover of the "Evangel" shows the Church of God Auditorium, the home of the Annual Assembly of the Church of God Colored Work.

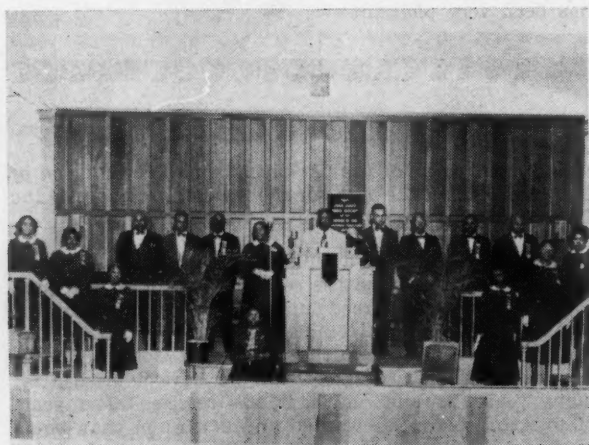
The erecting of such a building was born in the minds of our councilmen, and the setting forth of such a plan was unanimously agreed upon and affirmed by the Annual Assembly. The completion of the Church of God Auditorium, dedicated to the worship of God, represents the realization of a dream which we have nourished for many years. Through faith, it was realized after years of toils and tears. We wanted an auditorium that would serve our people and the community and which we would be able to look upon with pride.



W. L. Ford, Overseer, Moderator of Annual Assembly



Peter C. Hickson Delivers Opening Address



Assembly Auditorium Usher Committee

Overseer W. L. Ford Reviews the Church of God

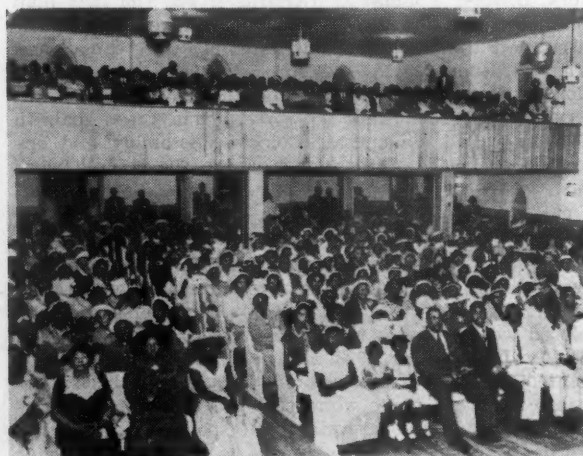
Annual Assembly

The Annual Assembly of the Colored Work has proved a blessing to our people and has served as a great asset for the advancement of the colored work of the Church of God in general. Our General Council and Assemblies are always prefaced with fasting and praying by members of the church at large for God-directed leadership.

NATIONAL YOUTH CONGRESS—(E. D. Cobbs, National Youth Director of Sunday School and Church of God Young People). The National Youth Congress is held annually in joint session with the Assembly on Sunday and Monday, preceding the opening session of the Annual Assembly, and from 6 to 8 p.m. during the Assembly. The National Youth Congress, which was organized in 1932 under the leadership of Brother P. C. Hickson (who served as its first national youth director), is proving a great blessing to the Assembly both spiritually and financially. Great progress is being made in the Sunday School and Church of God Young People's Endeavor, in their National Youth Congress, quarterly union meetings and in their local churches.

LADIES' WILLING WORKERS' BAND—(Mrs. Cleotha L. Ford, National President). The annual session of the Ladies' Willing Workers' Band is held on Thursday, in joint session with the Annual Assembly. This auxiliary is proving a great blessing to the work of the church at large. Many are encouraged to work as never before. The general parsonage is being beautifully furnished by the Ladies' Willing Workers' Band.

AUDITORIUM COMPLETION WORK—(Mrs. Jessie A. Bell, National President). The annual session of the Auditorium Completion Work is held on Friday, in joint



Congregation Scene at Annual Assembly

The Church of God Evangel

COLORED WORK

session with the Annual Assembly. The method of raising money for auditorium completion work was in the hands of the sisters from the beginning of this auxiliary. The sisters of our church have played a great part in carrying on this work.

MISSIONS DEPARTMENT—(Mrs. Lillian Stevens, National President). The annual session of the Missions Department is held on Saturday, in joint session with the Annual Assembly. At our 1954 Assembly it seemed good to the brethren and the Holy Ghost that the sisters of our church be privileged to serve in the Missions Department and have an annual meeting in joint session with the Assembly. They are proving a great blessing to this noble cause.

Orphanage

Previous to 1927, the brethren of the Church of God Colored Work were looking forward to putting in operation an orphanage home and school, and had purchased property at Eustis (Lake County), Florida, for this. During the Assembly of 1927, plans were made to clear up all indebtedness on the property. The women of the church were placed in full control of the orphanage and school work with the privilege of electing a chairman and such officers as were necessary to carry on. They were to hold a business meeting in the interest of their work, and to report to the Annual Assembly and the state and district conventions.

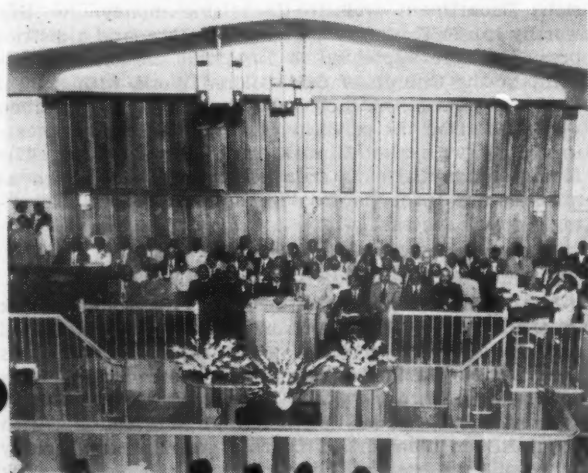
The work moved forward under the leadership of Ethel M. Coleman for two years. She was succeeded by Mrs. Jessie L. Hayward at the Assembly of 1929. Mrs. J. L. Hayward was an ardent worker. Through her strenuous and tireless efforts, we soon erected the first orphanage building, which was dedicated on Sunday, July 2, 1934.



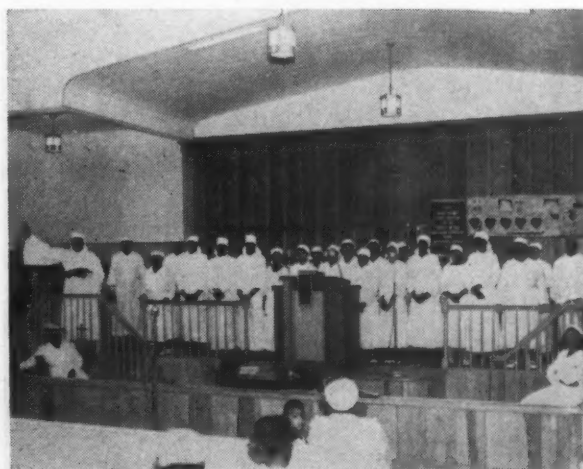
Orphanage and School—Girls' Dormitory



Orphanage and School—Boys' Dormitory



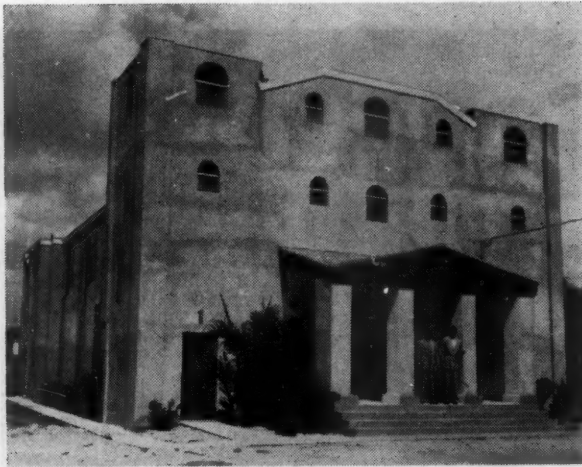
Partial View of Ministers Attending Assembly



Jacksonville, Fla., Church—P. C. Hickson, Pastor



Pittsburgh, Pa., Church, J. B. Cox, Pastor



Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., J. B. Ferguson, Pastor



Pahokee, Fla., Church, J. B. Davis, Pastor

This was a two-story stone building and was used for the girls' dormitory and classroom. A small wooden structure was also erected and was used for the dining room and kitchen. Later we erected another two-story stone building. The first story is used for the auditorium (chapel) and the second story for the boys' dormitory. For the progress and achievement made for the Church of God Orphanage Home and School, much credit is due our faithful leaders (with other faithful sisters) who have served as general president of this institution; namely, Ethel M. Coleman, Jessie L. Hayward, Susie E. Bronson, Melissa E. Marcelle, and Maggie Brantley.

Evangelism

As near as we can find, Brother Edmond S. Barr and his wife Rebecca (along with a few others) were the first converts of the colored work. In 1910 Brother Edmond Barr, a native of Bahama Islands, visited the Church of God camp meeting at Durant, Florida, and became quite well-informed as to the doctrine of the Church. The evangelistic work began and a few colored people began to accept the teaching and government of the Church of God. A church was set in order at Miami, Florida, and a little later a group was formed in Jacksonville, Florida. Before 1913, two more churches were organized, Coconut Grove and Webster, Florida. Brother Edmond Barr in later years returned to his native home, the Bahama Islands, to give to his countrymen the light of the gospel. He was the first missionary of the colored work. In later years God began to anoint men and women for the ministry. With a great zeal to preach the Word, they went into the hedges and highways and declared the gospel of Christ. The ministers would walk for miles to conduct revivals. As the gospel began to spread, souls were sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost. Churches were organized and set in order. Great revivals are being conducted from year to year, and souls are being blessed in the way.

Missions

I am happy to say that our people are being awakened to the missions work of our Church. At our 1954 Assembly it seemed good to the brethren and the Holy Ghost that the sisters be privileged to play a part in the Missions Department (relative to raising money) for this worthy cause. Therefore, a general, a state, and a district president were appointed to serve the Missions Department of the Church of God Colored Work, with a local chairman serving in each local church. These workmen were also given the privilege of having an annual meeting along with the Annual Assembly each year. The fourth Sunday in each month has been proclaimed as missions day throughout our jurisdiction, and it is proving a great success.

Sunday School Department

At the beginning of the Church of God Colored Work in the State of Florida, there were a few organized churches set in order on the east coast district. At this period, there was little, if any, care given to the Sunday School work. In the year 1923, the first Sunday School was organized and set in order at Jupiter, Florida, with about fifteen members. Officers elected for the Sunday School did not have a clear conception of what the work of the Sunday School really meant, and for this cause,

very little time was given in its interest and welfare.

During the year 1923, the Spirit of the Lord directed Brother G. C. Sapp to the west coast district of Florida, where he began conducting revival meetings, setting churches in order, and organizing Sunday Schools. In later years as the Sunday School work began to improve, greater interest was shown toward this organization. During the first Annual Convention of the Church of God Colored Work, which was held at Orlando, Florida, in April, 1925, a greater interest was stimulated in behalf of this organization. Steps were taken for its advancement.

During the second Annual Convention of the Church of God Colored Work, which was held at Miami, Florida, in April, 1926, U. P. Bronson was elected state superintendent of Sunday Schools of Florida. Brother Bronson, a man of extraordinary intelligence, was principal of one of the public schools in the State. Howbeit, seeing the great responsibility placed upon him, he began to review the condition of the Sunday School work and he took immediate steps to improve it. He organized the Sunday School and Y.P.E. quarterly union meeting and appointed district superintendents to preside over these.

Brother Bronson, with the two leaders, Brother Peter C. Hickson and Brother T. C. Cartwright by his side, labored with all his might to bring the Sunday School to the front. No sacrifice was too great for him to make. He traveled all over the state in behalf of the work he loved so dearly. Under his leadership much was achieved. One of his greatest accomplishments was organizing the quarterly union meetings of the Sunday Schools and Y.P.E.'s.

Church of God Young People's Endeavor

When the young people of the Church of God Colored Work had nothing to entertain them as an auxiliary, they wandered from church to church of other denominations trying to console themselves. God began to place the burden of our young people on the heart of Brother Glover C. Sapp, because the little flock of young people was scattered. By his zeal and effort, he organized the first Church of God Young People's Endeavor in the Church of God Colored Work, at Sanford, Florida. At that time it was called the Young People's Missionary Band. This was the beginning of a great work. Afterwards, the news, growing rapidly through the Church of God, spread near and far. Professor U. P. Bronson was appointed state chairman of this organization. In later years at the twenty-fourth Annual Assembly, which convened at Cleveland, Tennessee, October 21-27, 1929, the name "Young People's Missionary Band" was changed to the "Church of God Young People's Endeavor." The Church of God Young People's Endeavor became an international organization.

National Youth Congress

In later years, at the Annual Assembly of 1931, Brother P. C. Hickson, a young man of great intelligence and keen business ability, was appointed state president of the Church of God Young People's Endeavor. Under his leadership, the young people's work of the state began to progress by leaps and bounds. The burden of the young people of other states fell on him, because there was no Y.P.E. organized in other states where the Church of God Colored Work had been established. During this As-



Reading, Pa., Church, E. D. Cobbs, Pastor



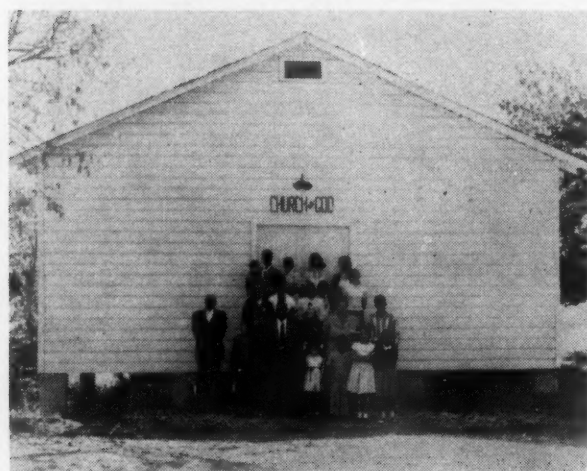
Cocoa, Fla., Church, L. O. Wynn, Pastor



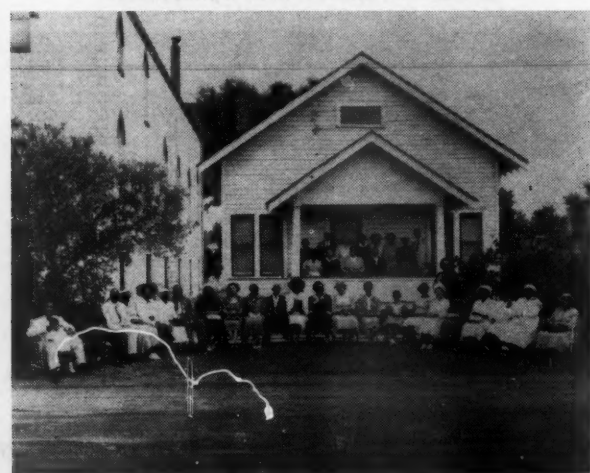
Norristown, Pa., Church, E. D. Cobbs, Pastor



Chattanooga, Tenn., C. L. Drummond, Pastor



Williamsburg, Ky., G. J. Wilson, Pastor



*Local Church Cabinet in Jacksonville, Fla.
Seated on Lawn of Church Parsonage*

sembly year, as state president of the Y.P.E. of Florida, he voluntarily took upon himself the grave responsibility to organize through correspondence a Young People's Endeavor in every church in the states where the Church of God had been organized. He was very successful in his undertaking. His interest in the young people greatly encouraged them, and many gathered from far and near to the Assembly of 1932.

During this Assembly Brother Hickson stressed the fact that the young people's work throughout the Church of God Colored Work should come together as a united organization, having a general leader to serve for the promotion of the same, so that the interest of one might be the interest of all. By using such a system, it would bring lasting blessings to all the Young People's Endeavors of our churches. A measure was presented to the Bishops' Council for this, and was unanimously approved by the Council; Elder Hickson was appointed the first general president. The Young People's Convention was no longer recognized as a state convention but as a general annual convention of the Church of God Young People's Endeavor. In later years the General Assembly adopted the Youth Congress, and it was accepted by the Colored Work. The General Annual Convention of the Church of God Young People's Endeavor was recognized as the National Youth Congress.

Church of God Gospel Herald

P. C. Hickson, General President of the Church of God Young People's Endeavor—under whose leadership the work had made wonderful progress—became greatly concerned about a paper's being published in interest of this organization. In his recommendations offered to the fifth General Annual Convention of the Church of God Young People's Endeavor, he included the following recommendation: "That such steps as necessary be taken in publishing a paper for the advancement of the young people's work in general." After taking this to the Bishops' Council for their approval, the council submitted for ratification the following recommendation to the Annual Assembly which was then in session: "That the said matter of publishing a paper be left in the hands of the general president and his official staff." This was the action set forth by the twelfth Annual Assembly, April 12-19, 1936. The first issue of the *Church of God Gospel Herald* was released the same year, November 26, 1936. This is a monthly paper published in the interest of the Church of God Colored Work, and has proved a great blessing for the cause.



General Parsonage, Home of Overseer

The Church of God Evangel



A Glorious Victory

By Peter C. Hickson

Editor, *The Gospel Herald*

IN EVERY FIELD of human endeavor, whether in art, industry, literature, or music, the thought of the human soul is to carry on to a glorious victory. Saul pressed his way to victory whether he was in the right or wrong. Saul was the chief of sinners. In his epistles he states, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." He stood by when Stephen died, and assisted in the execution of that good man. The murderers pulled off their coats and put them down at the feet of Saul, and he watched them commit the horrid act of stoning glorious Stephen.

Saul hated everything about Christ. He was going down to Damascus with the writ granting permission to have Christ's disciples arrested. He wanted them captured. He wanted them butchered. So the cavalcade made up of persecutors got on their way. Their leader was small in stature and unattractive in some respects, but there was something very intent in the eyes of the man at the head of the troop. Those Christians must be captured, and their teachings must be silenced. The religion of the Cross must be wiped out of existence.

Suddenly a new sun had been kindled in the heavens, putting out the

glare of the ordinary sun. Christ with the glories of heaven wrapped about Him looked out from a cloud. The splendor was overwhelming, and Saul fell to the earth. Dust-covered and bruised, Saul attempted to get up, shading his eyes from the severe luster of the heaven with his hand. He was unsuccessful, for he was struck stone blind.

He cried out, "Who art thou, Lord?"

Jesus answered, "I am the One you have been chasing. He that whips and scourges those Christians of Damascus, whips and scourges Me. It is not their backs that are bleeding; it is mine. It is not their hearts that are breaking; it is mine. I am Jesus whom thou persecutest." From that wild, exciting, and overwhelming scene arose the greatest preacher of all ages. This man was Paul, in whose behalf the prison was shaken, before whom soldiers turned pale, the one into whose hands Mediterranean Sea captains put control of their shipwrecked craft, and the one whose epistles are the advance courier of the Resurrection Day.

Think of Paul, a graduate of a most famous school in which Dr. Gamaliel was a professor, a proud man on horseback as he rode on with government documents in his pocket. Perhaps he had already attained two of

the three titles of the school—Rabbi the first and Rabbi the second—and was on his way to obtaining the title of Rabbi the third, the highest title. When he saw the light, however, without time to think of what posture he should take, or without any consideration for his dignity, he tumbled into the dust. From that fall he arose to apostleship.

So it has been in all the ages, and so it is now. You will never be worth anything for God and the Church until you have a worldly fall or have your reputation upset, or in some way, somehow, are overthrown and humiliated. You must go down before you go up. We learn, first, from this scene that a worldly fall precedes a spiritual uplifting. Joseph found his path to the Egyptian court and to the prime minister's seat in the land of Egypt through the pit into which his brothers threw him. Daniel would never have walked among the bronze lions that adorned the Babylonian throne if he had not first walked among the real lions of the cave. Paul marshaled all generations of Christendom by falling first on his face on the road to Damascus.

Men who have always been prosperous may be efficient servants of the world, but will be of no advantage to Christ. You may ride majestically,

seated on your charger with rein in hand, foot in stirrup, but you will never be worth anything spiritually until you fall off. Those who graduate from the school of Christ with the highest honors have on their diploma the seal of a lion's muddy paw, the splash of the angry wave, the drop of a stray tear, or the brown scorch of a persecuting fire. In nine hundred ninety-nine cases out of a thousand there is no moral or spiritual elevation until there has been a thorough worldly upsetting.

Paul was a logician; he was a metaphysician; he was an all-conquering orator; he was a poet of the highest type. He had a nature that could swamp the leading men of his own day; and hurled against the Sanhedrin, he made them tremble. Paul learned all he could get in the school in his immediate vicinity; then he went to a higher school, and there mastered the Greek and the Hebrew, and also perfected himself in *belles-lettres*, until in after years he astonished the Cretians, the Corinthians, and the Athenians by quotations from their own authors. It seems that I can see Paul rising from the highway to Damascus, brushing the dust from his cloak and wiping the sweat of excitement from his brow, as he turns to us and all the ages, saying, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."

The chief of sinners (Paul) through the new birth became the chief of the apostles of Jesus Christ and, with a zealous and courageous spirit, cried out, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Then he began his epistles: "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

According to the Apostle Paul's view, everyone who would rise to a full Christian state must put forth effort to that end. In putting forth efforts, we must be mindful of the words of this great instructor, which I quote: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue; and if there be any praise,

think on these things," Philippians 4:8.

PAUL PRESSED HIS WAY TO A GLORIOUS VICTORY:

1. By Preaching the Gospel

The commission of Jesus Christ to His disciples was, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." The Apostle Paul preached the gospel. In his epistle to the Corinthians, he stated, "And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God," 1 Corinthians 2:1, 4, 5. "For our gospel came not unto you in words only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost," 1 Thessalonians 1:5. "Praying always . . . that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel," Ephesians 6:18, 19. "Woe unto me if I preach not the gospel." The result of Paul's labor on the missionary field was a glorious victory because he preached the gospel.

2. By His Works

Paul did not idle away his time. He was a worker. He was a builder. He worked his way to a glorious victory and instructed others, saying, "Let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another." A man who works has no time to envy or covet another man's works. Covetousness is a dangerous weapon. Paul said, "Let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints." When a man becomes a victim of a covetous spirit, sooner or later he becomes a victim of a murderous spirit. Remember, the spirit of Cain still lives. If I must murder my brother by killing his influence or dragging down his reputation that I might obtain a position in the church, I shall never make it. If the works I have done or the achievements I have made do not set me forth or promote me to an office in the church, let me remain where I am and there I shall be contented. I do not believe that a man should seek for an office in the church, but I do believe that a man should prepare himself for the office and then wait until the office calls him. I still believe in

the words of a Sunday School song I used to sing years and years ago, "Brighten the Corner Where You Are."

3. By Christ's Directing

Paul's service was directed by Christ. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me," Philippians 4:13. Self-confidence is a great weapon. With it a man can prosper where others have failed. The lesson Christ taught Peter and his fishermen was meant for the preachers of every age. Peter and his fishermen had toiled all night long and had caught nothing. They had anchored their ships and were washing their nets, probably deciding among themselves, "Tonight we shall sail another course." But Christ said unto them, "Go right back to the same place and let down your net on the right side." At the word of Christ, they let down their net on the "right side" and the result was a glorious victory in the same place they had failed. We see in His lesson:

1. Service in self-will under human leadership
2. Service in self-will tested and the barren result
3. Christ-directed service and a glorious victory.

If you fall in your first trying, do not get discouraged. Go back, take Christ along with you, let down your net on the right side, and the result will be a glorious victory. Let us always remember the words of the great instructor, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

4. By Precepts and Examples

Paul achieved and led others to a glorious victory by precepts and examples. Paul was a leader and not a driver. He did not exercise lordship over God's heritage but preferred to be an example to the flock. Although he had authority, he made himself

GUIDE ME

Being perplexed, I say,
 "Lord, make it right!
 Night is as day to thee,
 Darkness is light.
 I am afraid to touch
 Things that involve so much;
 My trembling hand may shake—
 My skillless hand may break;
 Thine can make no mistake."

an example, according to 2 Thessalonians 3:9, "Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an example unto you to follow us." Then he encouraged the flock by saying, "Follow me as I follow Christ."

We must not drive, but lead the flock of God to a glorious victory. A shepherd will lead his sheep but a butcher will drive them. It is a sad day when a shepherd loses his spirit of leadership and tries to drive his flock. A leader who has become a victim of such a spirit will never achieve a glorious victory but will scatter his flock, and the result thereof is a dead church. The success of any cause depends upon the man who is standing at the head of the troop.

Paul was a leader not in words only, but in precepts and examples. No wonder he could speak to his flock and say, "Follow me as I follow Christ." He also instructed Timothy, "... Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity," 1 Timothy 4:12. This instruction might as well be applied to the ministers of every age if they expect to achieve a glorious victory. We may glean a thought from the words of the poet:

"I'd rather see a sermon than hear
one any day;
I'd rather one should walk with me
than merely tell the way."

5. By Visions and Revelations

Where there is no vision the people perish. Leaders must have supernatural leading if they expect to lead on to a glorious victory. Paul was a man of visions and revelations. In his testimony to King Agrippa, he said, "Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision," Acts 26:19. When Paul was forbidden by the Holy Ghost to preach

the Word in Asia, "a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them." Paul's visions materialized into actions, and the results were glorious victories.

What we need today is a vision of our work. There is much land ahead to be possessed. Why then should we stand and gaze at one tree and miss the forest behind it? Things may look dark before us, but we can possess the land. The man who says, "It can't be done," is likely to be interrupted by somebody doing it. A weak man waits for opportunities, but a strong man in Christ makes them. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Regardless of opposition or clouds of discouragement, we cannot stop here; we must rise and be on our way. Although we have come a long way, the challenge is in the distance, and we have to go. Let us not give up because of opposition, discouragement, or failures, but let us press on to a glorious victory. The Church of God was crushed to the ground for over twelve hundred years. Finally, she arose again like the bright and morning star and began to stretch forth her wings from city to city, from the Jews to the gentiles, and to the uttermost parts of the earth. It was the visions of the old patriarchs, relative to the Church, which kept the people looking forward with a hope. Without vision the people perish.

Forgetting those things which are behind, let us press our way toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Victory

lies ahead and not behind. Many persons are like lightning bugs; they carry their lights behind. They can always tell (see) from where they come but can never tell (see) where they are going. Men get lost looking at the past, lost from Christ who said, "I am the way."

When things looked dark to Moses and the Israelites, the Lord spoke unto Moses, "Wherefore criest thou unto me? Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward." The great thing in this world today is not so much where we are standing but in what direction we are moving. Glorious victory comes not by dreaming but by having a vision and making that vision materialize. There was a time when a man holloed he could be heard for only a mile and a half, but now a dog can bark and be heard around the world. This came to pass through someone's having a vision and making it materialize. No man who cannot think and have a vision can be successful in life.

6. By Unity and Cooperation

Paul in all of his epistles strove very hard to bring the brotherhood unto unity and cooperation. Let us walk by the same rule; let us mind the same thing, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, as was the cry of the Apostle Paul. He sharply rebuked Peter for separating himself from the gentiles. We must endeavor to keep the spirit of segregation out of the Church of God. We must continue to battle against our aggressors (the big "I" and the little "you") who are seeking to overthrow the spirit of unity and cooperation of our brotherhood, and let brotherly love continue.

Paul rebuked this spirit which was rising up in the church at Corinth, saying, "For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos . . . ? Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one." He further states, "For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which he is not ashamed to call them brethren." If we will accept this thought as our motto—"GOD IS OUR FATHER, CHRIST IS OUR REDEEMER, THE HOLY GHOST IS OUR GUIDE, MAN IS OUR BROTHER"—and with faith and confidence in God, cry out as the Apostle Paul, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me," I assure you that the result will be a glorious victory.

*Being in doubt, I say,
"Lord, make it plain!
Which is the true, safe way?
Which would be vain?
I am not wise to know,
Not sure of foot to go;
My blind eyes cannot see
What is so clear to thee;
Lord, make it clear to me."*

—Author Unknown



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About the Author

"... was one of the greatest, most influential and best loved Christian names of the 20th century ... was born in a wealthy Christian home in London, April 8, 1847 and died on March 28, 1929 ... was ordained into the Baptist ministry ... introduced Moody and Sankey to Britain ... never gave a mediocre exposition, never preached a mediocre sermon and certainly never wrote a mediocre book. These books of his are deep and rich and beautiful. They are like great music which the masses of plain people as well as the privileged few can understand and appreciate and like great music they are as fresh and stimulating today as when they were written." *Baptist Bulletin*

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Reports

FROM THE GOSPEL FIELD

of the Church of God Colored Work

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—Recently we have had a great revival meeting. There was a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit; many souls were saved and added to the Church. The revival meeting was prefaced with a week of consecration services among the saints. The meeting was conducted by one of the local missionaries, Ruth Dempsey. At the closing of the meeting, a baptismal day was set. The baptismal service was conducted by the pastor, assisted by the deacon. There was great shouting and rejoicing as many followed the Lord in baptism. It has been a long time since we witnessed such a meeting.

Under the leadership of our watchful and prayerful pastor, Elder P. C. Hickson, the church is making wonderful progress both spiritually and financially. We are proud of our local executive cabinet and other officers, presidents, chairmen, secretaries, treasurers, musicians, etc., who make up the official family of the church. Our membership is divided into six wards, with a deacon assigned to each ward. Each ward is divided into several districts over which is placed a district leader, working under the deacon of that ward. We have three groups of singers serving the church: the senior choir, the Church of God Gospel Chorus, and the Church of God Youth Chorus. We have a wonderful Sunday School and Young People's Endeavor. Please pray for our continued success.

—P. C. Hickson, Pastor.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.—Some time ago the Lord directed Evangelist Mary Dixon to Rochester, N. Y., where there was no Church of God. Through prayer and sacrifice she conducted a revival meeting. Eight souls were saved, sanctified, baptized with the Holy Ghost, and added to the Church of God. The Church of God was organized and set in order at this place. Several revival meetings have been conducted, and many more souls have been filled with the Holy Ghost and added to the Church.

We thank God for Sister Mary Dixon; through her God has blessed in a wonderful way. She is a wonderful woman in the Lord. We were renting

a building in which to hold our services. The rent on the building was \$35 a month, and she paid the rent one year in advance by herself. We have a wonderful Sunday School and Y.P.E.

God did bless Rochester, N.Y., in a wonderful way under the leadership of Sister Mary Dixon, the founder of the church at this place. During the last Assembly, W. L. Jones was appointed as pastor of this local church. Please pray for our continued success in the Lord.

—W. L. Jones, Pastor.

SEBRING, Fla.—We thank God for the many blessings which He has bestowed upon us in a great soul-stirring revival recently conducted here by Evangelist Bernice Douse, of Ft. Myers, Florida. Eight were saved, 2 sanctified, 6 baptized with the Holy Ghost, and 19 (11 adults and 8 children) were baptized in water. God used Sister Douse in a mighty way and we praise Him for sending her our way. Pray for our continued success.

—Wollie McClendon, Pastor.

EUPORA, Miss.—Today we sound a note of praise to God for the wonderful way He blessed us in a revival meeting recently conducted here by Calvin Daniel. The Holy Ghost led the way, and the saints were greatly revived. Everybody's goal was to win souls for Christ. Twelve were saved and sanctified; several were filled with the Holy Ghost; 12 were added to the Church. We feel that this was an answer to prayers prayed a long time ago. Please pray for our continued success.

—Calvin C. Daniel, Pastor.

REDDICK, Fla.—We thank God for the saints and for the great revival meeting which was conducted by our pastor, W. A. Williams, assisted by F. H. Brewster. The Lord was with us in every service and the power of the Lord did fall. The meeting ran 8 weeks. There were 2 saved, 4 sanctified, and 10 filled with the Holy Ghost. A great baptismal service was held at Paradise Park. There were 21 who followed the Lord in water baptism, and

16 were added to the church. Please pray for us.

—W. A. Williams, Pastor.

EAST LIBERTY, Pa.—The East Liberty Church of God was really born because of a preaching engagement filled by our founder and first pastor, the late Garfield Byrd and his wife, Evelina Byrd Harris. They began having prayer meetings in the home of Sister Ginyard. The Lord blessed in a wonderful way, and the church was set in order May 5, 1932. During the past 24 years we have had nine different pastors. Under the pastorate of John Davis the building fund was started that made it possible to purchase the house and lot where the present building (new church) now stands. This property was purchased February 3, 1948, under the administration of our present pastor, B. F. Scott. We succeeded in paying for the property in 1951, and we were constantly looking forward to the day when a real church building would occupy this corner. By the help of God we were able to erect a beautiful church building to His honor and glory. This building was dedicated July 29, 1956. Please pray that God will bless East Liberty with an old-time revival.

—B. F. Scott, Pastor.

DEERFIELD, Fla.—Recently the Lord blessed us with a great revival. Evangelist Zorah Miller was in charge of the meeting. God wonderfully blessed in the meeting. The saints worked faithfully in the meeting and the devil was defeated. There was a great outpouring of the Spirit, and the power of the Lord fell in a mighty way. There were 15 souls saved (8 men and 7 women), and 12 were added to the Church. Pray that the blessings of God will continue to rest upon us.

—J. Z. Smith, Pastor.

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.—We thank God for the wonderful blessing He has bestowed upon us here at Daytona Beach. We thank Him for the great revival meeting conducted by Evangelist Annie B. Wheeler some time ago. The Lord did work in a wonder-

ful way. He sent down the spirit of revival and souls crowded the altar. Many souls received the wonderful blessing and were baptized in water and added to the Church. Many young people accepted the Lord during this meeting. We had a wonderful time at the baptismal service.

We thank God for coming to our rescue in a time when we were about to lose our church and property. Through much fasting and praying, the Lord blessed us so that we raised sufficient funds to pay off all indebtedness and burn the mortgage on our property. Recently we concluded a financial drive for a better church building; this was a great success. Much credit is due F. B. Bell, who was serving as pastor at this time. Please pray that God will bless us in our great undertaking to build a new church at Daytona Beach.

—Hartman Poitier, Pastor.

BRIDGETON, N. J.—We thank God for the way He has blessed us at Bridgeton since 1953 when we started out holding house services with 13 members. God added 5 souls to the Church while we were in that little crowded room. We continued to fast and pray, asking God to give us a church. Our finances were very poor but God was with us. He blessed us with a wonderful pastor, Charles Black, who was very faithful. He started working on the building by faith. After much toil and labor we were able to move into the church, which is a nice block building 28 by 45 feet. Since we have been in this church building, God has added 23 souls to the Church. Please pray for our success.

—Reporter.

SANFORD, Fla.—The Lord has been blessing here in a wonderful way. We thank God for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Following a consecration meeting for the saints, the Lord sent a great revival spirit. Among those who were tarrying were a great number of young people. Sixteen were saved, baptized, and added to the Church. Pray much for us.

—Roosevelt Hestle, Pastor.

FREEHOLD, N. J.—Recently a revival meeting was conducted here under the supervision of Hattie McDuffy. The Lord did bless in a wonderful way. The great things the Lord spoke through her are still in the hearts of the people. The saints were greatly revived. Two were saved, 1 was sanctified, and 4 were filled with the Holy Ghost. Pray for our continued success in the Lord.

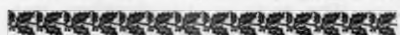
—Roosevelt Burns, Pastor.

COCOA, Fla.—We thank God for sending us a wonderful pastor and his wife, Brother and Sister L. O. Wynn, who are very faithful to their church, both spiritually and temporally, for the upbuilding of the work of God. On Brother Wynn's first Sunday visit to us after he was appointed pastor, he

set forth plans by which we were to work for the completion of the building. The result of the working together of the members with the pastor is a beautiful church building for the Church of God at Cocoa, Florida; this building has been dedicated to God and for His service. Please pray that God will continue to bless us.

—Reporter.

PAHOKEE, Fla.—Recently a three-week revival was conducted here by Evangelist Jannie Green. The Lord blessed us in a wonderful way. Eight were sanctified and 3 filled with the Holy Ghost. The Lord blessed us with a wonderful baptismal service. Eleven were baptized and added to the Church of God at Pahokee. We thank God for Evangelist Jannie Green and the blessing she was to the church. We also thank and praise God for our



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pastor, J. R. Davis, who is a real man of God. We thank God for the great sacrifice he made to erect a new church building for the Lord. God blessed us and the new church was built and dedicated to God. Please pray for us.

—Reporter.

FT. PIERCE, Fla.—Recently the Lord blessed us with a wonderful revival meeting, whereof we are glad. The meeting was conducted by Clarence Denson, of Seaford, Delaware. The Lord was with us in a wonderful way and manifested Himself in every meeting. During this meeting, 25 souls were added to the Church of God. There were several who testified that the Lord had healed their bodies. One girl was without sight for four years and she received her sight.

We thank God for our pastor, Frederick LaFleur. Under his leadership we have been blessed to build a new church and dedicate it to God. Pray for our continued success in the Lord.

—Reporter.

WASHINGTON, N. C.—We thank God for the two-week revival conducted here by our state overseer, J. N. Geigers, of Orangeburg, S. C. He preached the Word with power. The saints were greatly revived and souls were saved. We thank God for him and the wonderful sermons he preached. Three souls were saved, 2 sanctified, and 2 added to the Church. Please pray that God will bless us according to His will.

—W. M. Anthony, Pastor.

EUSTIS, Fla.—Recently a plan was set forth by our pastor and trustees of the church relative to erecting a church parsonage. A rally was set and when it terminated, God had blessed us to raise \$1,339.26. The Lord opened up a way for us, and we were able to purchase property with houses already erected. We already have a beautiful stone church building which was erected some time ago. Please pray for our continued success in the Lord.

—F. B. Bell, Pastor.

GARY, Ind.—Through fasting and praying God has blessed us in a wonderful way at Gary, Indiana. We needed a place to worship the Lord. By working together we were able to erect a stone building and dedicate it to God. We thank and praise God for the way He so wonderfully blessed us in directing the way to build this church. Please pray for us at Gary, Indiana.

—Oleander Devoe, Pastor.

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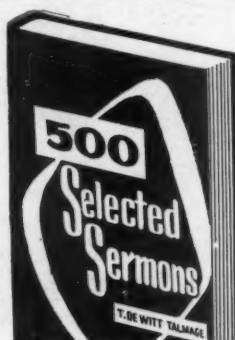
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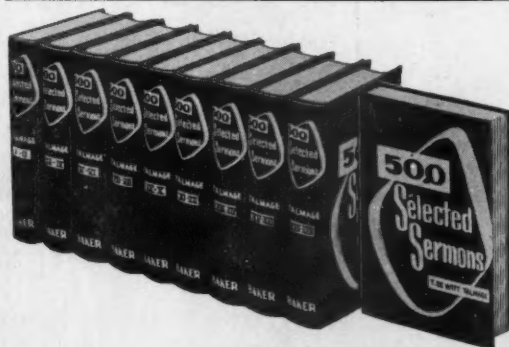
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CHRISTMAS ISSUE 1956

the Readers' response

To the Editor:

The *Evangel* and the *Lighted Pathway* are a greater inspiration to me than ever before. They have always been a blessing, but now they seem to be more informative of our Church's work and progress. The appearance of the *Lighted Pathway* from the cover all the way through is most pleasing. I am confident you receive many more letters of praise than you do of the other kind, but I felt I should add my word of appreciation, also.

—J. E. DeVORE

Youth Director of Mississippi Jackson, Miss.

To the Editor:

I think the *Evangel* is a good, religious paper, but I think you should begin again to publish prayer requests as you used to do. In my opinion, that was a very logical thing. So many people have requests. There have been lots of people who have received wonderful benefits by requesting prayer through the *Evangel*. It would require more space. It is true, but it would be worth every bit of it. I think that most people would be willing to pay a little more for the service rendered.

—MR. N. ROBERTS

St. Louis, Mo.

FRONT COVER



The Adoration of the Shepherds by Giorgio Ghione

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WE BELIEVE

1. In the verbal inspiration of the Bible. 2. In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 3. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary. That Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead; that He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor. 4. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins. 5. That justification, regeneration, and the new birth are wrought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. 6. In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ; through the Word, and by the Holy Ghost. 7. Holiness to be God's standard of living for His people. 8. In the baptism of the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart. 9. In speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. 10. In water baptism by immersion, and all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. 11. Divine healing is provided for all in the atonement. 12. In the Lord's Supper and washing of the saints' feet. 13. In the premillennial second coming of Jesus. First, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air. Second, to reign on the earth a thousand years. 14. In the bodily resurrection; eternal life for the righteous and eternal punishment for the wicked.

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MEANS TO AN END

by FLAVIUS J. MAY

"To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth,"
John 18:37.

PERHAPS IT CAN BE SAID that the supreme purpose that God has in man is that in man He might find the object of His eternal love and at the same time receive from man eternal glory. It was to this end that man was created on the earth in the beginning.

With the call of Abraham and the beginning of the great Jewish kingdom, Jehovah launched a far-reaching experiment to accomplish this noble purpose. The Lord God expected that in the Hebrew nation He would have a people and a kingdom over which He would be the sole ruler and Lord Protector. Israel was to be an example to the neighboring heathen nations and show forth the works and glory of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

In the covenants with Israel, God promised them provision and protection if they would simply obey Him. It was a blow to the heart of God, therefore, when Israel turned her back on God and wanted a human king instead of one divine. From there, God's chosen people allowed everything in the world to come between them and their God. To them, the desires of Israel became more important than God's desires; therefore, they became an end in themselves instead of a means to carry out the purpose of God. The last time we see them in Old Testament history, they are a beaten, broken people who have been ill-treated at home and also abroad in captivity, and they have almost lost contact with the God who wanted to make them great.

The greatest contrast that we can possibly find to this situation is thrillingly illustrated and portrayed in the life, ministry, sufferings and death of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. In His own words—the words of our text—He declared that He had come into the world as a means to an end and not as an end in Himself. It would have been a simple matter for Him to have gathered men to Himself, but He was not concerned with self-interests; He came to "bear witness to the truth." This can be more clearly seen as we look more closely at the purpose for His coming into the world.

IN THE FIRST PLACE the Bible tells us in 1 John 3:5, "And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins. . . ." This simply means that Christ, in coming to the world and going to Calvary, took away our sins with Him. He bore them on Calvary and there suffered the punishment that they demanded, freeing us from all guiltiness and condemnation. Now, with joy the Christian can shout, "Thank God, my sins are gone!"

In the second place, the Bible tells us in 1 John 3:8, "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." What are the works of the devil referred to here? In the Gospel of John, Satan is described as the archenemy of man. He is called a "murderer from the beginning," also "a liar, and the father of it." He is known also as the originator of sin, being himself the first great sinner. In his work as a murderer, we see the devil as the destroyer of life; as a liar, we see him as a destroyer of truth; and as the first great sinner, we see him as the transgressor of all the laws of God.

To destroy these works of the devil, Jesus came. He came as the restorer of life; He came as the witness of the truth, and as the Truth itself; He also came to liberate us from the bondage and dominion of sin and from willful sinning. Whatever the work of Satan in the life of an individual, thank God, Jesus destroyed it for those who will believe on Him.

Next, in bearing witness to the truth, Jesus came to reveal to man our heavenly Father. He has let us know that to do the will of the Father is the most important thing in the world. In doing so, one finds the fulfillment of God's great covenant of love and grace to everyone who would come unto Him.

In every phase of His earthly life, Jesus placed emphasis on the Father instead of promoting Himself.

Yes, in coming to this world, Jesus established a kingdom that would never end and purchased a church that He would one day receive unto Himself.

AFTER CHRIST ASCENDED to the Father on high, the Holy Ghost was sent into the world in a greater measure than ever before to carry out the purpose of God. He, too, came speaking not of Himself but of Christ. His great commission here is to reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. That

(Continued on page 14)

Philip Gendreau

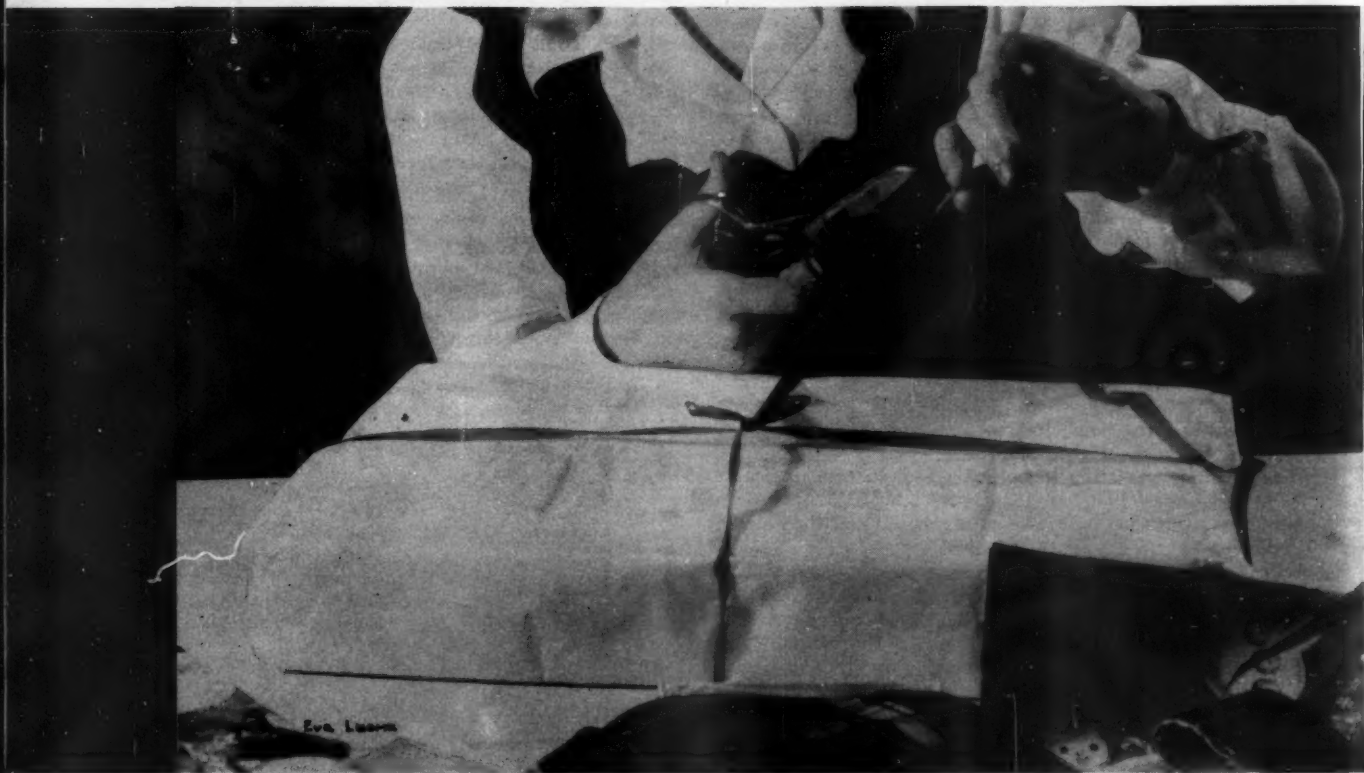


the gift of giving

by WAYNE McAFEE

THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT cannot be limited to nine. A careful study of the Gospels and Acts, which give vivid examples of the spiritual gifts in action, quickly relays the idea that the Spirit has never had any intention of limiting His fields of action to any particular number. Even Paul, the author of the classical, basic passage on spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12-14) gave subsequent listings of the gifts and spiritual offices (Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11), inferring that his Corinthian list was not by any means exhaustive.*

Paul has, however, in his Corinthian discussion of spiritual gifts set up relative values for them, whether they be those he lists in any of his writings or even if they be extra-Biblical, that is, not found in any listing but evident in the life of the Church. His instruction is that we are to "desire spiritual gifts," and to "forbid not" their exercise in our midst. He carefully, yet emphatically, tells us to "covet earnestly the best gifts." Having thus established the fact that there are "good, better and best," he explains what the "best"



eva luoma photo

* It is interesting to note that this viewpoint has a wide range of supporters which includes Modernists, non-Pentecostal Fundamentalists, as well as Pentecostals, who have studied the gift passages with critical, apathetic or sympathetic attitudes. Millar Burrows, Yale Biblical Theology professor, who holds modernistic views, so states in his *Outline of Biblical Theology* (p. 260). Abraham Kuyper in his classical *The Work of the Holy Spirit* agrees by feeling free to include the Scriptures from Romans in his discussion of the gift passage of 1 Corinthians 12-14 (p. 187). His book is published by W. Eerdmans, which is definitely fundamentalist. R. M. Riggs, present general superintendent of the Assemblies of God, plainly connects the two passages in *The Spirit Himself* (p. 113), while Frank M. Boyd, a fellow Assembly of God Bible teacher and prominent Pentecostal author explains in detail why we must connect them in "Spiritual Gifts," *Pentecostal Evangel* (December 10, 1949, P. 5).

gifts are: "... as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church." In Paul's listing of spiritual gifts in Romans, there is one that by all criteria is a "best gift," but it has been sorely neglected because of its humility. That gift is the *gift of giving*.

There are several convincing reasons why we should strive to excel in this unfamiliar gift. Paramount among them is that it is a gift exercised by God Himself and His Son Jesus Christ. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 8:9); and "... who (Christ Jesus) ... gave himself a ransom for all ..." (1 Timothy 2:6).

A secondary reason, yet important to the Spirit-filled church, is that, although we can happily apply to ourselves Paul's compliment to the church at Corinth: "I thank my God ... that in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance (the gifts of tongues, interpretation and prophecy) and in all knowledge" (1 Corinthians 1:5); unhappily we must also accept Paul's exhortation to the same gift-rich church in a later letter: "Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence ... see that ye abound in this grace** (the gift of giving) also" (2 Corinthians 8:7). Since God has set gifts in the Church (compare 1 Corinthians 12:28), no true Pentecostal congregation will want to come behind. "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8).

Another reason of great importance is that it is only through the exercise of this spiritual gift that Christ's commandments are completed or His program advanced. "Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel" (1 Corinthians 9:13, 14). Luke also records that this was an ordinance of the Lord, stating that He Himself said, "... For the labourer is worthy of his hire."

A final reason is a bit on the selfish side. Yet it is as true as God's laws are. "... He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully" (2 Corinthians 9:6), and "he who supplies seed to the sower ... will supply and multiply your resources ..." (2 Corinthians 9:10, RSV). "Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" (Luke 6:38). How many, many times have we seen that he who exercises the gift of giving, as the saints at Philippi did, can confide in the very face of adversity on the promise: "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). He, who has not been so liberal as they, can also take heed and remember that it is he that sows who reaps.

The more spectacular gifts are needed and are highly

beneficial to our churches. It is true that, when there are messages in tongues that are duly interpreted or prophecies in our services, unbelievers will fall upon their faces and worship God, reporting that God is in us of a truth. It is also true that if we do not practice the less public gift of giving that our pastors and church workers will go unfed, our churches will be unkempt, our orphans will go unclothed and our widows unattended; our missionaries will return defeated from their far-flung posts of duty, and our presses will stop their healthful flow of Pentecostal literature to combat the forces of the enemy. "See that ye abound in this grace also."

FORTUNATELY, WE HAVE an example of a Pentecostal congregation that excelled in this gift in the Philippian church. It is evident from Philippians 1:5 and 4:10-19 that they were frequent supporters of Paul's missionary ministry as he testifies in 2 Corinthians 11:9. So far advanced in this gift were they, not only in their obligations to Paul, but also to the needy brethren in Jerusalem, that Paul used them as an example to the Corinthian church. And well might they serve as an example to us. Observe them in 2 Corinthians 8.

They gave "in a great trial of affliction." Perhaps, for this reason, Paul calls it the "grace of God bestowed upon them," for it is by the influence of the Spirit that one can give in spite of personal and congregational trials of affliction. They gave in "deep poverty." There is, then, no excuse for not practicing this gift in the Church. They gave in "an abundance of joy." "God loveth a cheerful giver." It is certainly a prerequisite that any giving that can be considered giving through the Spirit of God will be done cheerfully, without reluctance or grudgingly. They gave "beyond their means, of their own free will" (RSV). He who gives according to his means is only fulfilling his obligation or doing what his brother is also doing; but the man who gives beyond his means, because the burden of the furtherance of the gospel lies heavily upon his heart, is exercising the gift of giving. They "first gave their own selves to the Lord." Although it is by the Spirit of Christ that we may cry out, "Lord, Lord," it is by our place in the Church that we are privileged to exercise any of the Spirit's gifts. This is why the sinner's philanthropy and social aid is not to be compared to the giver through the Spirit, for he has given himself first to the Lord. It is after such a beautiful example of the use of this gift that Paul appeals to the Corinthian church: "See that ye abound in this grace also." Cannot we also give as they?

IT IS NECESSARY to make an intentional digression here. If the gift of giving receives a more prominent place in the Church, the recipients must also carefully practice the "gift of receiving." It is Peter who gives us a word of admonition in this respect: "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre. ..." (1 Peter 5:2). No true shepherd takes care of the flock for the money he can get out of it. Those that do are hirelings who, when offered a better salary elsewhere, will leave the sheep at the mercies of the wolves for he "careth not for the sheep" (John 10:13). The true shepherd will stay with his flock through thick and thin receiving his pay as from the Lord from whom it actually comes, for, if it is given through the

(Continued on page 15)

** The word translated in our English Bible here as grace is the same word that is used throughout 1 Corinthians 12-14 where the translation has been consistently gift.



by F. W. LEMONS

SOME FASCINATING STORIES bordering upon the mysterious have been published at intervals in our newspapers in connection with the appearances of the flying saucer, alleging that our earth has been visited by strange creatures, men from other planets. There have been numerous speculations and facetious jestings about visitations of men from Mars. While few have given credence to these fantastic stories, what a thrilling thought it is to the Christian to know that our earth was once visited by One from another world.

Isalah prophesied of the coming of such an One, saying "Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel," which is interpreted, "God with us." Too much has been made of the little Babe born in a manger who grew up to be a wonderful Man, without emphasizing the fact that that helpless Babe in the arms of the holy virgin mother was the eternal "God made manifest in the flesh." Too often it is not known that He shared the excellencies of another world—a world far better than our own—and that He forsook the ivory palaces and the glory that He shared with the Father before the foundation of the world, to make a visit to our sin-blighted sphere. It was clearly asserted by our Lord, "I am from above"; "I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me."

If there was a characteristic that stood out more boldly in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ than any other it was that He was not of this world, a claim maintained by Him throughout His earthly life, and even to the very eve of His departure, as witness the prayer of John 17, and the good confession He made before Pontius Pilate. Those nearest to Him, who knew Him best, realized that indeed He was not of this world.

Though something of His divinity was concealed when He voluntarily made Himself of no reputation by condescending to tabernacle in human flesh, the grand fact that He was God could not be hid. It was continually

rising to the surface. Mary saw it when she looked into His eyes as a Babe and trembled. John saw it at His baptism before the voice from heaven spoke to him. Peter saw it and felt the urge to make the great confession. Long before the walk on the Emmaus Road the disciples had witnessed it and their hearts had burned within them.

However meager may have been the concept of His true identity during days when the disciples saw Him in humiliation, on the day of transfiguration—when the Father allowed the veil to be momentarily withdrawn—the last vestige of doubt was erased. On that day they saw the King in His glory! No question about it now—He belonged to another world. Writing of that event years later one of those present affirmed, "We were eyewitnesses of His majesty."

THERE WAS EVERY REASON why the world should have sighed for the coming of the divine Guest. The sinful world needed Him. The world was sick and the physicians of the day possessed no balm for its multitudinous ills. The world had already seen upon its stage the greatest men of genius ever to appear. Philosophy had demonstrated its inability to save the world. Paganism had failed because of its vile corruption. Judaism, despite its boast of theocratic privilege, had degenerated to a low ebb, deserving the censures "generation of vipers," and "wicked and adulterous generation." All these had had their day and the patient grew steadily worse. And at just that time, He came.

His coming had long been the hope of Israel. It had been proclaimed by all the prophets. Yet one wonders whether they really expected Him. The angel of the Lord made the announcement, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord"—the most thrilling bit of news ever to fall on human ears. The Father sent a "multitude of the heavenly host" as a guard of honor, and hung out a special star in the heavens in commemoration of the unparal-

leed event. Since time immemorial the celestial citizens had not witnessed such a stupendous occasion. Angels and archangels watched with wonder, surprise and rapt amazement. But the divine Guest arrived unexpected, a total stranger in our world! *He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.* No sadder, or more disappointing commentary upon the depraved state of the human family can be found than that contained in this single sentence. The Son of God from another world was here, but unknown, unrecognized. Where were the gentlemen of the press in their endless search for headlines? Where were the honorable statesmen who boasted of their loyalty to the Son of David? Where were the churchmen with a burden and those who trembled at the Word of the Lord? We do not know. But the "world knew him not."

How strange all this seems to us today. When royalty visits America no effort or expense is spared to do them honor. Buildings are decorated; flags fly at full mast; they are met by proper dignitaries of state and greeted by cheering throngs as they pass through our crowded streets. The best our nation can afford is at the disposal of royalty. But when He came there was no welcoming committee, no celebration, no hospitality offered—none save that of the friendly beasts which shared with Him the comfort of the manger and the foul smell of the stable, and a few humble shepherds, blessed by their memory, though they occupied the lowliest place on the social scale of the day. They came and worshipped the little Babe, bowing humbly at His manger crib. Someone was guilty of committing an unpardonable affront in thus failing to recognize the advent of the divine Guest. But it is true; "the world knew him not."

IN A WORLD SO BLIND that it "knew him not," it is heartening to learn that there were some who later did recognize Him. To all such He gave the right to become sons of God, "even to as many as believed on his name." A distinguished example of this group was the just and devout Simeon, who long had awaited the "consolation of Israel." "And the Holy Ghost was upon him."

When the Child Jesus was first presented at the Temple, Simeon appeared, having come "by the Spirit into the temple." What a day it was for the old patriarch! Hold-

ing the little bundle of human flesh in his arms he became fully aware that he was holding the Son of God—his Saviour—infinite God manifest in flesh. How the old man's heart leaped with joy! At last he had seen Him—the world's Redeemer. And he exclaimed in inexpressible delight, "Mine eyes have seen thy salvation."

It is an easy matter for us to condemn the world for its failure to have recognized Him—Immanuel. Nevertheless, it is reassuring to be reminded that we live in a world God has visited. The question may have occurred to you, "How could God ever forgive the world for the awful affront for failing to recognize Him?" Or possibly you have wondered why He ever came to such a world. Did He, the Omniscient, not know? But the answer is obvious now. That is why He came—because the world did not know Him. Therefore, "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself."

With its myriads of ills and evils our world is richer and hope is brighter because God has visited it. "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."

Prior to 1492 A.D., men of the Old World had some vague, weird imaginations about what might be on the other side of the vast expanse of briny waters that bounded their shore, but at best they were only uncertain guesses and speculations. After Columbus completed his first voyage and brought back evidence of a new continent on the other side, what a difference it made, and how it inspired others to go and see for themselves and seek the riches of that unexplored land.

Likewise there have always been nebulous speculations about a life hereafter, some of them childish and unrealistic. The Old Testament, far in advance of the ideas of philosophers and dreamers, expressed the deep longings of the hearts of men for a better, fuller life at the end of the earthly trail, and encouraged the righteous to expect to live again. The world, however, waited for the appearance of One from the other side—One who had been there and who had experienced its realities, who had been through death and mastered it—to speak to our hearts in the most solemn moments—when they bleed over loss of our beloved—when they ache because of other irrecoverable disappointments—when they are torn and

(Continued on page 15)



*"For unto us a child is born,
Unto us a son is given:
And the government shall be
Upon his shoulder:
And his name shall be called
Wonderful, Counsellor,
The mighty God,
The everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace."*

Isaiah 9:6

THE GIFT GIVEN

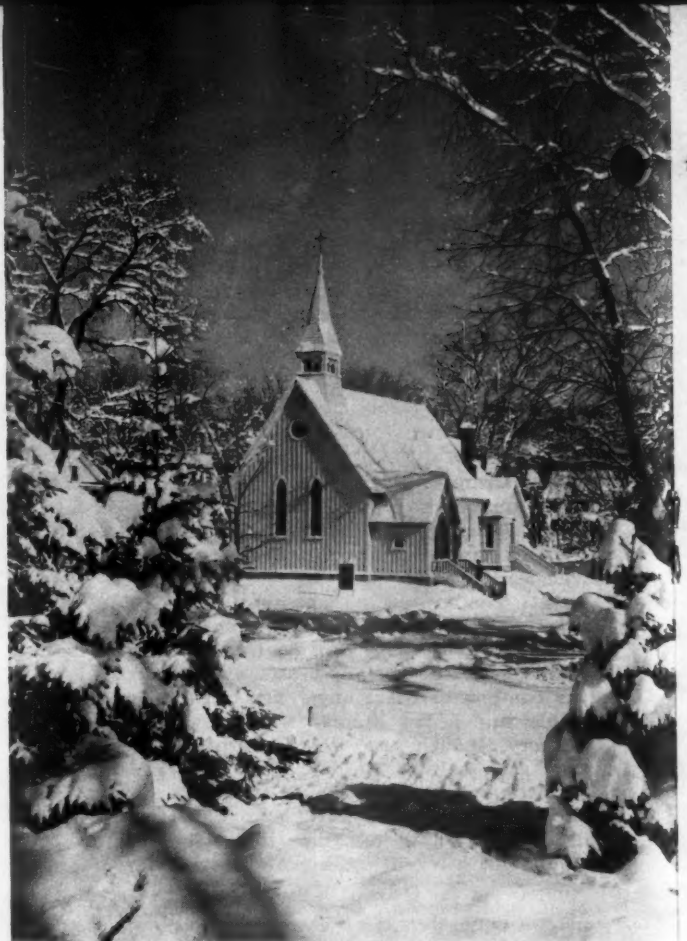
GOD HAS ALWAYS GIVEN. "It is more blessed to give than to receive" did not originate with man. God's chief pleasure has been to give good gifts unto His people. For "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

After forming Adam, God immediately gave unto him life. Seeing the need of this newly formed man, He then gave him a helpmeet. This was only the beginning of God's giving. Dominion over the earth—a law to live by—prophets to declare and interpret that law—all of these were gracious gifts of God unto men. Let us look more closely at the Gift spoken of by Isaiah. We note first that it was

A PERSONAL GIFT

We often hear the statement, "Let's give something a little more personal this year." The closer and dearer are our friends, the more personal we like to make the gifts. God's gift of His Son was the most personal gift that has ever been given. Since the beginning of the universe there has never been a gift which held such a deep personal significance both to the Giver and to the receiver.

This Gift was too personal to be wrapped in colored paper and bound with bright ribbons; this must be wrapped in the swaddling clothes of eternal love and surrounded by the glory of heaven-come-down. This Gift was much too personal to be placed under the bough of some evergreen; God's Gift must be placed in the warm and loving arms of a virgin daughter of Zion. No tag need here be attached, for all men could tell from whence the Gift came and for whom it was intended. No multicolored bulbs burning in Bethlehem's windows need announce the day; the stars left their course to lighten the city and to guide anxious souls to the lowly manger where lay the Son of God. Heaven per-



by LAUD O. VAUGHT

sonally delivered its Morning Star into the too-little-appreciating hands of man. Note then that this was also

A PRECIOUS GIFT

The jewel box of heaven contained no other so precious. "Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved in whom my soul is well pleased," said the Lord. Here was no idle choice being thoughtlessly given. This was the precious and beloved who was the only begotten and "well pleasing" unto the Father, being offered as a gift to wayward man. The "Chiefest among ten thousand" come to bless ten thousand times ten thousand and more.

As He was precious unto the Father, even so He becomes unto all who know Him. Peter said, "Unto you therefore which believe he is precious." Paul considered the Gift of God so great that he referred to Christ as God's "Unspeakable Gift." Everyone who has received Him is able to testify of the preciousness of Christ. A Comfort in trial; a Help in trouble; A Solver of every problem; a Healer of every wound; a constant Companion on every journey, and a true Source of happiness for every hour. So precious was He unto both God and man that His coming to man from God was absolutely

A PRICELESS GIFT

Man, who had been given control of all the earth, had no wealth that could have purchased such a rare treasure. Had he sifted all the gold from all the streams and dug every ounce from its earthly hiding place, he could not have met the price. The silver and the diamond mines could offer not even token payments. Heaven itself held no riches that could be made in exchange for the Son of God. Had the angels in tender mercy searched heaven for wealth enough to bring the Gift of God to man, they could have found nothing. The golden streets and the jasper walls would have looked like common earth and commercial gravel placed beside the Gift of God. "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." That for which no price could be found was freely given. That which the combined wealth of heaven could not substitute was separated from the bosom of the eternal Father by His love for His children. For what purpose? The pen of Charles Wesley wrote:

*"Gracious bond of earth and sky,
Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth . . ."*

A PROMISED GIFT

The joy of anticipation is exceeded only by the joy of fulfillment. So it was that man waited patiently but with a longing heart for the Saviour of the world. God's promise to bruise the serpent's head by the seed of the woman was followed with a reminder to Abraham that in him should "all families of the earth be blessed." Perhaps a little clearer was the promise made to Jacob when God said, "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be." Unto Moses the promise was that God would raise up a Prophet like unto himself and unto Him would the people hearken.

Hope was magnified among God's people when it was revealed that of the seed of David would come the Deliverer of Israel. When God announced through the prophet Micah the very city in which the Christ should be born, the spiritual heart of the world quickened with great expectation, thinking surely the time was short when all these things should come to pass. "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel . . ."

No wonder the angels joined the chorus of waiting hearts to proclaim the joyous news that the long-awaited had been revealed and that God's Gift unto men had arrived. Believing shepherds bowed before Him and men in whom was heavenly wisdom brought gifts from afar to welcome the Joy of heaven into the abode of men. Rejected of many, yes, but "to as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them which believe on his name." Hallelujah! Such a marvelous fulfillment of such a glorious promise was never before known to man! "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee; he is just and having salvation . . ."

*"Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled;
Joyful all, ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With angelic hosts proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem."*

AN ETERNAL GIFT

We recently received a gift from a very dear friend. Only a few days passed and through carelessness it was broken. But Christ is ever with us. He is not bound by time or subject to age. Daniel saw Him as the Eternal One, for the God of heaven should "set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed." Again Micah saw Him as One "whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

An everlasting gift which is perfect and precious is certainly a priceless one. Such was God's Gift to man. What could we do but to receive so gracious an offer with thanksgiving and with gladness of heart?

*O holy Child of Bethlehem!
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today;*

*We hear the Christmas angels,
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!*

CHRISTMAS GREETING

*By Reverend Laud L. Vaught
Pastor, Princeton, West Virginia*

I could not be looked upon as the author or creator of Christmas greetings. This only could have been conceived in the great heart and mind of Almighty God. In ages past, He brought forth the first Christmas. Because of His plan, we glorify His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and King.

The announcement, which was holy, and of such importance, must have been reserved for a special group of angels. This they proclaimed to a humble group of shepherds, who watched over their flocks in the fields.

As the glory of the Lord encircled the shepherds, an angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

This story of Christ's birth is the same beautiful story today as it was then. My greatest desire is not to write a new story, but to re-echo the old original refrain of "peace on earth, good will to men," and "glory to God in the highest."

CHRISTMAS

by J. DUAL FREE

IF THE MANY FACETS of Christmas, I shall discuss three: the miracle of Christmas, the mystery of Christmas, and the joy of Christmas.

The Mystery of Christmas

For over nineteen centuries the cold, bleak night of winter has been broken by one bright, cheery yuletide season—Christmas. To many millions of people this day stands out as the most joyous day of the entire year. Celebrants of various occupations and faiths look forward to this momentous time with special interest for different reasons.

The merchant may regard it as an occasion which enhances and climaxes a very prosperous business season. Laborers know that this is one day in the year that they may relax and take life easy. Vacationers make this a time for trips and visits with friends or relatives. The church expects its largest attendance and most impressive service in honor of Him whose birth is being celebrated. For all of this interest and activity one can hardly escape the feeling of amazement and wonder why all this great concern. An examination of the facts will reveal that the real reason is hidden beneath the greatest mystery of all time.

Without solving the mystery, John gives us the theological facts underlying the prolonged practice and fervency of the Christmas celebration in these words: "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory." John, in these meaningful words, announces the appearance of Christ to man, but does not tell His origin or beginning. Ordinarily one thinks of birth as the beginning of existence, but this is not the case with Christ. Though one may search as diligently as possible for His beginning, one can find none. If this staggers the imagination, we can only attribute it to the doctrine of divinity which shrouds the Christmas mystery.

Though Christ was God, yet He was in a very peculiar and real sense human, also. Had He been only divine, His appearance would not have captured and held the affections of men as He has; for God visited man, according to the Scriptures, on various occasions without producing the effects that Christ produced. Had He been altogether human we certainly would not celebrate His birth as extensively as we do, for no man, no matter how great his accomplishments, has ever attracted the attention and respect that Christ has.

He had the characteristics of human beings. He came as a little baby as we come. He grew as we grow. He became weary as we become weary. He was human as we are human. To forget this aspect of His nature or question it is to fall into the same heresy that vexed the early Church. If Jesus was not human, then He ceases to be our perfect example. His temptation was a sham

battle. He was only acting with the devil. Naturally he could go bravely to such battle if such were the case. But this was not the case at all. It was just as possible for Him to fall as it was for Adam to fall, or as it is for you and me to fall. He was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin.

The Miracle of Christmas

The dual nature of Christ is not only a mystery but also a miracle, and both are essential to the work of redemption which He came to perform. In Christ, God came in a unique sense to dwell among men. The prophets dreamed of a day when God should break into human life in a unique fashion. They were sure that in some way God was coming to show man the way home and give him the moral courage and spiritual support needed to get to that promised goal. The Christmas truth is a fulfillment of that dream. Without it we could not have the gospel of our glorious hope. It is this instance of divinity taking upon itself humanity that gives us our Christmas miracle and yuletide celebration.

Since we term this a mystery and miracle, the question may arise as to its authenticity. This question, however, is so wonderfully answered by historical facts as well as supernatural manifestation that the real wonder is that it is asked at all. We know Jesus' human existence by the same means we know of other notable persons who lived and died; that is, by the historical records plus the inspired writings. We know of His divine nature by the inspired record, plus the inexhaustible proofs of His miraculous ministry.

Christ announced with undaunted boldness His divine nature and then proved His claim by infallible proofs of supernatural performances. This proof, though perhaps unconvincing to the unbeliever, is conclusive proof to the believer as is the fact of the new birth. The believer knows without doubt that he has been born again because he has experienced the new birth as promised by Jesus to all who obey His Word. The believer knows of the divine nature of Christ just as Peter did when He said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Peter knew by divine revelation. This divine truth then becomes a positive reality to the believer by the operation of the Spirit which testifies to the truth of His Word. Just as one cannot explain all the substance of an electrical impulse which produces light or power when properly harnessed, so one knows of the divine nature of Christ when He comes into one's life by faith.

Though we are unable to explain fully the mystery and miracle of God, there are some things that speak out on the divine nature of Christ which should serve as satisfactory explanation to every believer, or at least aid him in pointing out some definite attributes as he

may apply them to reason by faith. No argument, however, may suffice for the unbeliever, as he is incapacitated to receive spiritual insight except as he accepts Christ.

One of the most conclusive proofs of Christ's divinity is His perfect character. He was perfect in every respect. No seed of Adam can make such claim. Not only were His words perfect, but also His actions were perfect, and those who knew Him spoke with undeniable proof of this fact. Hear Peter as he cried, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." A hardened thief who died at His side sobbed out this confession of his own free will, "I am suffering justly, but this man hath done nothing amiss." Pilate, who would have been glad to find some error in Him, said, "I find no fault in him." Yes, one can examine the record closely, but can find no fault in him. His perfect character can be accounted for in no other way except that He was possessed of divine nature, for every seed of Adam from Cain to the last baby born on this earth is partaker of Adam's fallen nature.

Another great fact which attests His divinity is His abiding presence with man for more than two thousand years after His death. Why was it Peter could stand with boldness after His death and proclaim that "by . . . Jesus Christ . . . whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before

you whole"? The answer is, because of the presence of Christ who still lives. The reason Paul could face Nero's chop block and say, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" was because of the consciousness of His ever-abiding presence. The reason David Livingston could suffer and give his life in the wilds of Africa among the heathen was because of the presence of Him whose birthday we celebrate on Christmas.

The Joy of Christmas

The Word is our authority for Christ's supernatural nature; yet, perhaps the most convincing argument to all of us is the fact that this great mystery and miracle which we find set forth in His Word has been attested in our hearts and minds by a personal experience with Him, which alone enables us to enter into the real joy of this season. If we are unable to explain this great phenomenon in a satisfactory measure, we can only say that every individual holds the key to the fuller explanation in his own will. One knows honey is sweet by tasting it. Everyone may know of the joy and divinity of Christ by receiving Him into his life. Without this personal experience one cannot appreciate the real meaning of Christmas or receive its wonderful benefits to the fullest extent; with such an experience Christmas becomes a joyous celebration. It is my prayer that the true Christmas spirit may be experienced by humanity everywhere.



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*The
Mystery, Miracle
and Joy of
Christmas*

Harold M. Lambert

CHRIST'S COMING

by J. H. WALKER, JR.



from ewing galloway, N. Y.

IN BETHLEHEM NEARLY TWO thousand years ago we find a young couple discussing a subject which is precious to them. "I do wish that the Messiah would come," she says, "for I am tired of slaving and working so hard for Johanna's family without so much as a kind word. When He comes He will set up a kingdom so powerful that even the Romans, much less Johanna, will have to serve us. Won't that be a wonderful time?" Her husband also caught a glimpse of her dreams as he answered, "A great time and a great day, but we have waited so long that it seems that He will never come. I hear that if one person will keep all of the Law for only one day that God will send the Messiah. The least that we can do is to faithfully keep on working, hoping and praying that God will send the Promised One soon."

What did the coming of the Messiah mean for these people? What did His coming mean for the world, the church, scientists, historians, theologians; in fact, what did His coming mean for you?

At the time of His first appearing He was expected as a ruler who would establish an earthly kingdom in which all others would be subject to the Jews. In this hope many were disappointed. His kingdom was not of this earth but was a spiritual one. He was not coming to give great material, earthly gains which last only for a season, but His gifts are eternal. He did bring something for the couple at Bethlehem. No longer did they have to bring an animal to the priest to be sacrificed as a sin or

peace offering, but they were delivered from the strict bondage of the Law and given a peace and joy which the Law could never give.

The hope of Israel was for the coming of a deliverer, a conqueror, a king; and although their outlook was a limited one, the star over Bethlehem was a symbol of the light of eternal victory which their Messiah would bring over this world of darkness. They wanted deliverance from bondage—which He brought, not for a few years only but for all eternity. He conquered death, hell and the grave. He was a king who revealed Himself as a kind, gentle ruler with compassion for His subjects.

To the historian His coming meant the focal point by which they could date the events of history. The printers and publishers have found Him the subject of more books than any other person. Thousand of volumes have been written on His life, work and teachings. The librarians have spent many hours cataloging these works. Critics, sceptics, and atheists have occupied themselves with His coming, for they know that it is the important event in the Christian religion. Theologians have acclaimed Him as the revelation of the Godhead, as a mirror through which we can see the attributes of God and strive for the perfection which God wants for us.

THE INCARNATION, THE CROSS and the Resurrection are of insurmountable importance to mankind. In His birth we find God entering miraculously into

(Continued on page 15)

A GALILEAN

BUT

GOD

by G. D. BOATWRIGHT

PENS FAR MORE PROLIFIC than mine have observed and recorded the majestic beauty of the birth of Jesus, and yet all the portrayals of His birth have never dimmed the story. The star of the East shines as brightly today in our minds as then, and the heavenly choir sings as clearly and harmoniously as on that grand day of His birth. We can hear yet the comforting words of the angels, "Peace on earth, good will to men."

This ever fresh, ever new fact alone makes His birth distinctively different. Why? There must be a reason. Men of history are remembered by their deeds, but seldom if ever by their birth, or by the events that surrounded it. The memories of mere men, both good and bad, are retained because of the things they did. The Neros, the Caesars, the Hitlers are remembered because of their many ignoble deeds and their tyrannical leadership. The creative geniuses of history are remembered for some noble discovery, or because of some worth-while contribution they made to society. In the vast hall of fame we recognize the Edisons, the Alexander Graham Bells, the Pasteurs and the Salks. They are recognized for some specific contribution, and immortalized by these things.

Here stands One among the many, however, who makes His entrance with great heavenly fanfare and celebration. Admittedly, He was not accorded a great reception at the inn, and it is true that "he came unto his own and his own received him not." Something about this Person, however, has made His birth an unforgettable occasion, and cause for joy and jubilation. The reason? This Jesus that was born in the little city of David is Galilean but God, a divine Person made man in Nazareth.

This Child is the Word incarnate, God incarnate, the Creator of the universe became man. This is an *unavoidable truth*, and yet it has become one of the greatest stumbling blocks to the calculating cynic and the material-minded man. This truth does go beyond scientific hypothesis and admissions; yet I repeat, it is still an unavoidable truth. Down through the dark, dim corridors of time men have been plodding on in quest of peace and reconciliation with God, and yet have stumbled headlong in unbelief when confronted by this eternal truth—that God could possibly clothe Himself with a robe of flesh and visit men.

Just what do you see as you revisit the manger this Christmas? Just what does this tiny bundle of warm flesh mean to you? Certainly He must be something to all men. To many, He may be only the co-star with Santa Claus, and share top billing with the old bearded legendary figure. To some He is the Great Teacher or Prophet.

To others He is the Christ, the Son of the living God, the central point of all history. Even greater, to some He is a personal Saviour.

The humble man is the only man who can really recognize truth. As he stands over the manger and studies the Babe in swaddling clothes, he realizes, by faith, that though He lies upon the straw, yet He holds the whole wide world in His hand, He is born in due time; yet He existed before time was ever measured.

Yet, the proud fool, who reasons in his heart there is no God, sees only a baby. Faith is missing, so he fails to see. He reasons if there is no human analogy for it, he will reject Him as just a babe, and not as Omnipotence wrapped in swaddling bands. Here is strength—strength before which the angels bow, and which caused old Herod to quake with fear.

TURN TO LUKE 2 and read with me a very significant lesson. Who was it the angel of the Lord appeared to first, heralding His birth in Bethlehem? This divine ambassador made his way to a lonely Judean hillside and broke the news to a group of humble shepherds, huddled together after a hard day's work. Notice that it was not to kings that he appeared, not to ecclesiastics, nor to the politicians of that day. He appeared to a humble group of sheep-keepers on a Judean hillside, who, I believe, were looking for the Messiah! He, for whom they had yearned with great expectancy, was now born among common people in a common stable, in the common little village of Bethlehem. These men made their way to the manger and found Him, but think of all the multitudes who did not. There was many an agnostic in Rome telling a young Pilate, "There is no such thing as truth." There was many a sophist in the market place of Athens teaching that man could dispense with the gods, but to none of these did the angel appear. This points out the fact that only the humble ever find God; only those who know they are sick find the doctor; only the teachable find the teacher. The Herods of the world never really find Christ!

What do you see in Christ in this season that honors

Harold M. Lambert



His coming into the world? The answer to that question is supplied by Christ himself. "I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me," John 14:6. If these words are true, and we know they are, then everything hinges on what we think of Christ. Our access to God hinges on our acceptance of Christ. He becomes more than a departed hero. He becomes a present mediator for us. He becomes more than optional equipment; He becomes standard equipment. "No man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Christ alone is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Let us analyze these titles He conferred upon Himself.

I AM THE WAY

The years immediately preceding and surrounding the coming of Christ found men in a "spiritual dark age." Men were religious but not enlightened. "Men groped in darkness, nowhere to go." They were bound and needed a Liberator, imprisoned and needed a Deliverer; ignorant and needed a Preacher; sinful and needed a Saviour.

One day, in the very early days of His earthly ministry, Christ had returned to the city of Nazareth, His own city. Nazareth was not a beautiful city in any sense; but rather was a kind of backwater; a place where no man would care to live whose ambition rose above that of a carpenter or a farmer. But Christ cared, and one Sabbath morn He made his way to the synagogue. When everyone was seated, the man whose duty it was to keep the sacred books handed Christ the scroll of the prophet Isaiah.

In clear, resonant tone I hear Him read, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." With this very brief, pointed reading, He closed the book, and gave it to the minister, and sat down. Then when all was quiet, He broke this news to them, "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears." What a statement to make, but it was now made! How would they receive it? What would their reaction be? They needed the Messiah badly. Would they accept Him? Was He the Way they had been taught to look for? Was this the One that the sweet Psalmist had sung about longingly, with the accompaniment of his harp?

Mixed emotions ran through the crowd. Some stood in awe and whispered, "Never did any man speak as this man." Others reasoning asked, "Is not this Joseph's son?" In a few moments the crowd gave a positive answer as to how they felt. A cry of execration filled the synagogue, and they rushed Him out of the city, possibly going past the home in which thirty years before His mother had received the angelic promise. On out to the brow of a hill they went, where they intended to cast Him down headlong. Strangely, however, He slipped through their fingers and escaped mysteriously out of their midst. These unappreciative, blind Nazarenes have all died and gone to their place, but the Nazarene lives on, and His firm declaration, "I am the way," can be heard above their wild cries of protest.

I AM THE TRUTH

Weary soul in search of truth, be weary no more in your search. You have found truth when you find

Christ; He is not only the teacher of truth but the essence of truth. "He that followeth me walketh not in darkness, but shall have the light." In John 8, we find the record of Christ speaking to a crowd during the Feast of Tabernacles, and He utters the words, "I am the light of the world." Yet, when He finished His discourse, their reaction was this: "Then took they up stones to cast at him," but again He miraculously escaped. As the poet has fitly said, "Truth crushed to earth shall rise again." Today He stands above all the graft, deception and lies of the world to verify this truth. Friend, recognize Christ today as the One who is Truth. At this glorious Christmas season there is much offered across the yuletide counter which is false and fraudulent and hollow, but still CHRIST REMAINS TRUTH.

I AM THE LIFE

In John 6, we have recorded what is commonly referred to as the "great discourse on the bread of life." The scene unfolds in the countryside of Capernaum. It was the day after He had fed the five thousand. Christ knew at this time that He was dealing with a crowd who were bent on earthly life and kingdoms of this world. Now He was undertaking with one last effort to help them understand His mission.

It may not seem particularly significant, but notice that Christ used for His preaching material, the thing that had been their diet the day before—bread. This was nothing new, for Christ used natural things to reveal the spiritual. Bread has been called the staff of life, and here in this discourse He tells them that He is the Bread that came down from heaven, and again, "Every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life. . . . I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." Oh, what boundless love for us! His own body has become life for those who will believe on Him. His stripes, His agony, His beaten, broken body was offered to satisfy justice; and to furnish life to a starving world.

I fear, however, that with all of this great provision He has made, too many men have mistaken mere existence for true life. Existence is only functional and drab, while life is exciting and vital. Much mention is made of life. Numerous television programs, such as "This Is the Life," "This Is Your Life," "It's a Great Life," and others have adopted the use of the word *life* in their titles, thus hoping to sell their program to the public. The Apostle Paul, however, tells us that true life cannot be separated from Christ. "For me to live is Christ." Other men, in dying, leave their property, their wealth or their titles, but He did that which no other man was ever able to do in dying—He left His life for us. How could He do it? Because although He was a Galilean, He is God. Let us not be content to worship only a commercial Christ with the careless crowd, but rather let us worship a personal Christ and a living Saviour.



MEANS TO AN END (Continued from page 3)

is, He convicts and convinces all of sin, makes known that there is no righteousness but that which is bestowed by God, and warns men of God's judgment of sinners for their sinfulness and lack of righteousness. In addition to

this He fills and baptizes the believer, giving him power to be a witness to the truth. His constant, abiding work in the heart and life of the child of God is to reveal more completely the Christ of glory to the individual. By His comfort, His teaching and guidance, His power and presence in the believer and in the church, He enables the church to be an instrument for carrying out the purpose of God in the world.

Therefore I must add that the church must be a means to an end and not an end in itself. Jesus declared, "Ye are the light of the world." I take this to mean that if the church does not let its light shine, the world will be shrouded in darkness. That is to say, the only instrument for spreading the gospel is the church. To the church Jesus gave the great commission, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." The church, then, which is spreading the light, carrying the gospel, and "salting the earth," is the one which the Lord will present to Himself "without spot or wrinkle." This means also that the ministers of the church are indebted to Christ and the world to carry out the Lord's purpose. Therefore, any minister who tries to promote himself more than the work of the Lord and who looks out for his own interests more than the interests of the church and the kingdom of God, has ceased to be a means to carrying out the divine purpose of God. The Apostle Peter, in stating the purpose of the church in the world, said, "But ye are a chosen generation, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

THE GIFT OF GIVING

(Continued from page 5)

gift of giving, it is through the direction of His Spirit.

The results of the operation of the gift of giving are apparently contradictory and ironic, especially when one of the results is persecution and the other is joy. Yet it is only that the second is the outcome of the first. "Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judea, which also they did . . . Now about that time Herod . . . stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the Church," (Acts 11:29, 30; 12:1). Since our adversary, the devil, does not care to see the gifts in action in the Church, it is only natural that he tries to hinder. Let this not dampen our determination to excel, however; on the contrary, let it spur us to an intensified zeal. It is the Lord who tells us what our attitude toward persecution should be. "Blessed are ye, when men . . . persecute you . . . Rejoice, and be exceeding glad" (Matthew 5:11, 12). This frank confession of this result of the exercise of the gift of giving, or any other of the Spirit's gifts should not defeat the purpose of this exhortation, for persecution brings joy along with results in the Christian's ministry. Solomon Ginsburg, a converted Jew, was an early missionary to Brazil (1890-1927) who welcomed persecution to his ministry. When he entered a new section and there was no persecution, he

closed his meetings in disappointment, for he knew that persecution would aid the cause.

Another of the results is worthy of mention: the unlimited backing of the Spirit because we have obeyed Him in giving. "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory" (Philippians 4:19). If we give all we have "to feed the poor," in support of His gospel, as the Philippians certainly did, He will not let us down. His promises are true.

Therefore, brethren, "having then gifts differing according to the grace** that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith . . . he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity . . . serving the Lord" (Romans 12:6-11).



WHEN GOD VISITED OUR WORLD

(Continued from page 7)

frustrated with a thousand failures. Ah, He has spoken, and with the voice of experience and authority. He has told us of "life everlasting," "many mansions," "a place for you." Of Him it is written, "He hath abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." Good news, indeed.

It is because He came to a world that knew Him not that millions now know Him and are seeking to explore the riches of eternity. For the gospel has turned a floodlight of hope upon the dark subject of death, and transformed the tomb into a gateway to glory and filled erstwhile troubled hearts with assurance of immortality and glad reunions in God's great, eternal tomorrow.

And now—almost 2,000 years since He came—the Christian world again celebrated His birth. Granted that there is much meaningless ado about Christmas, there is also much genuine happiness and joy. Notwithstanding the misappropriated praises to St. Nicholas and Santa Claus, the fact that the divine Guest once came will be proclaimed in carol and in story around the globe by means of television, radio and the printed page, as well as from every Christian church, and this shall be to the praise of His glory. Who else has a birthday which affords so much heartfelt joy and happiness? Who was it that ignited the idea of finding happiness by giving gifts and sharing with others? And what else, after 2,000 years, still intrigues the hearts of young and old like the old story of the Son of God born in a manger, coming from another world to acquaint us with the Father, and to bring us life more abundantly?



CHRIST'S COMING

(Continued from page 12)

the history of man. The divine entered the human level and the divine nature dominated the human nature. His birth fulfilled many prophecies and revealed a purposeful and planning God. The vicarious suffering of Christ on the cross is the highest example of love and is a constant reminder that only as we give our life we find it, only as we think of others and serve do we follow in His footsteps. In His resurrection we have a hope of life everlasting.

Because of His coming thousands of lives have been

changed. Drunkards have been made sober, cheaters have become honest, liars have become truthful, thieves have restored stolen goods to rightful owners, the lame have walked, the blinded eyes have been opened, captives in distress have been liberated and the poor have had the gospel preached to them.

Because of His coming the church has had placed upon her the greatest of all responsibilities—the continuing of the work and message which He brought. From the time of Stephen there have been martyrs who were fearless in death, with a radiance upon their faces that spoke of the love that was in their hearts. Many have been killed for the sake of the gospel. Some have been buried alive, some burned, some starved, some fed to wild beasts, but the hope in Christ has continued to move forward.

Thousands have endured untold sacrifices. Hundreds have left their families, loved ones and modern conveniences in order to fulfill the mission of Christ. Our Brother Noel DeSouza has been arrested more than fifty times for "disturbing the peace" in Costa Rica, but he continues to preach this gospel message. Recently in a three-week revival six hundred were saved and twenty-two preaching stations were organized to take care of

them. Last week in another revival fifty received the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Our Brother Moreno in Columbia was placed before the firing squad. As he was given an opportunity to give a last few words of testimony he described the sins which bound his life until he met Christ. The soldiers were so affected that they brought the highest officer of the post to hear his story. Again Brother Moreno told his personal testimony of what Christ's coming had done for him. The officer asked where he had learned about this Christ and Brother Moreno showed him his Bible, saying "Right here in the Word of God." When the officer asked to see the Bible Brother Moreno told him that he could have it, since he would no longer need it. The officer reached for the Bible and at the same time took Brother Moreno by the shoulder and told him to come with him. Today Brother Moreno is preaching the gospel in Columbia because of the power in the personal testimony of Christ and what His coming meant to him.

Christ came, and because He came "the world was turned upside down." He is coming again, and when He comes He will take those who are faithfully hoping and praying for His appearing, and working to fulfill His mission.



from ewing gallows, N. Y.

